



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

FOR WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

BARRON, CHIPPEWA, CLARK, DUNN, EAU CLAIRE, PEPIN, PIERCE, POLK, ST. CROIX

July 2004

Labor Force Swells with New Job Seekers

Thousands of new job seekers, many of them students, entered the labor market in June, many with jobs but some were still looking for work. The West Central labor force expanded by 3,300 to a June high of 245,650 participants. The number of employed increased by 1,960 but, because some new job seekers were still looking for work, the number of unemployed also increased by 1,340.

The increase in unemployed in

the region elevated the unemployment rate from 4.6 percent in May to 5.1 percent in June. The number of unemployed also increased in the Chippewa-Eau Claire metropolitan area by 625 causing the unemployment rate, not seasonally adjusted, to rise from 4.1 percent in May to 4.8 percent in June. After seasonal adjustment, which compensates for the traditional influx of students, the rate rose only one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.8 percent in

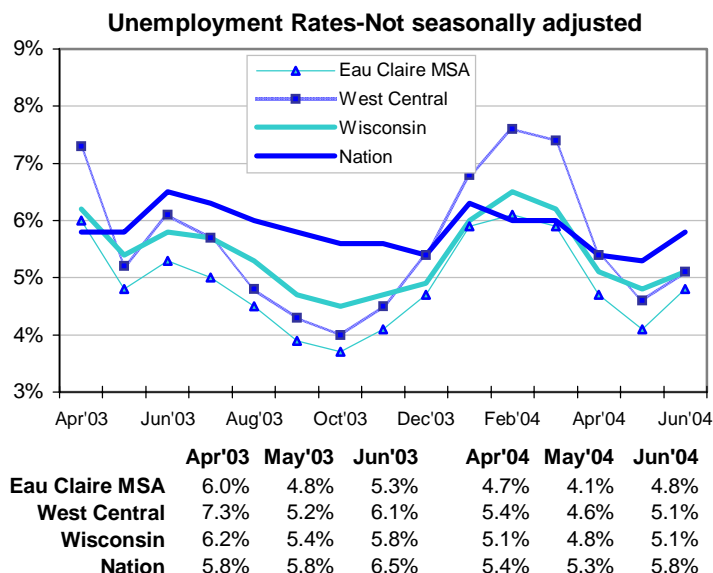
June.

The State of Wisconsin seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined from 5.1 percent in May to 5.0 percent in June, while the national rate was unchanged at 5.6 percent. Unadjusted, the state rate increased from 4.8 percent in May to 5.1 percent in June and national rate rose from 5.3 to 5.8 percent.

Every county in the region posted a higher unemployment rate in June, as did 61 of the state's 72 counties. However, when compared with one year ago 64 counties, eight of which are in West Central Wisconsin, posted lower unemployment rates.

Barron County was one of only seven in the state where the June unemployment rate was higher than one year earlier. The rate in Barron County rose as the number of unemployed, primarily new job seekers, was higher than in June 2003. A check on the number of residents filing for unemployment benefits showed fewer claims were filed in June 2004 than one year earlier.

The number of residents filing a claim for unemployment benefits is down from May to June in nearly



Civilian Labor Force Estimates* for West Central Wisconsin counties: June 2004

| | Barron | | | Chippewa | | | Clark | | | Dunn | | | Eau Claire Co. | | |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|---------------------|---------|---------|
| | Jun '04 | May '04 | Jun '03 | Jun '04 | May '04 | Jun '03 | Jun '04 | May '04 | Jun '03 | Jun '04 | May '04 | Jun '03 | Jun '04 | May '04 | Jun '03 |
| Labor force | 25,758 | 24,997 | 25,191 | 32,635 | 32,534 | 32,102 | 17,336 | 16,714 | 16,655 | 24,165 | 24,580 | 23,817 | 57,080 | 56,654 | 55,862 |
| Employed | 24,167 | 23,590 | 23,717 | 30,973 | 31,009 | 30,198 | 16,303 | 15,805 | 15,571 | 23,198 | 23,641 | 22,705 | 54,467 | 54,529 | 53,103 |
| Unemployed | 1,591 | 1,407 | 1,474 | 1,662 | 1,525 | 1,904 | 1,033 | 909 | 1,084 | 967 | 939 | 1,112 | 2,613 | 2,125 | 2,759 |
| % unemployed | 6.2 | 5.6 | 5.9 | 5.1 | 4.7 | 5.9 | 6.0 | 5.4 | 6.5 | 4.0 | 3.8 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 3.8 | 4.9 |
| | Pepin | | | Pierce | | | Polk | | | St. Croix | | | West Central region | | |
| | Jun '04 | May '04 | Jun '03 | Jun '04 | May '04 | Jun '03 | Jun '04 | May '04 | Jun '03 | Jun '04 | May '04 | Jun '03 | Jun '04 | May '04 | Jun '03 |
| Labor force | 3,416 | 3,313 | 3,323 | 22,057 | 21,655 | 21,802 | 23,789 | 23,170 | 24,864 | 39,411 | 38,723 | 39,479 | 245,647 | 242,340 | 243,095 |
| Employed | 3,231 | 3,160 | 3,141 | 21,064 | 20,752 | 20,642 | 22,428 | 21,935 | 22,537 | 37,376 | 36,823 | 36,626 | 233,207 | 231,244 | 228,240 |
| Unemployed | 185 | 153 | 182 | 993 | 903 | 1,160 | 1,361 | 1,235 | 2,327 | 2,035 | 1,900 | 2,853 | 12,440 | 11,096 | 14,855 |
| % unemployed | 5.4 | 4.6 | 5.5 | 4.5 | 4.2 | 5.3 | 5.7 | 5.3 | 9.4 | 5.2 | 4.9 | 7.2 | 5.1 | 4.6 | 6.1 |

* not seasonally adjusted

Industry Employment Estimates for West Central Wisconsin: June 2004

| (Employment in thousands) | Barron | | | Clark | | | Dunn | | | Pepin | | |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | Jun '04 | May '04 | Jun '03 | Jun '04 | May '04 | Jun '03 | Jun '04 | May '04 | Jun '03 | Jun '04 | May '04 | Jun '03 |
| Total Nonfarm | 21.9 | 21.7 | 21.8 | 10.5 | 10.3 | 10.2 | 16.3 | 16.8 | 16.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 |
| Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Manufacturing | 6.1 | 6.0 | 6.3 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Trade | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Transportation & Utilities | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Financial Activities | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Education & Health Services | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 1.9 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Info/Prof. & Bus.Serv./Other | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Total Government | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.5 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 4.0 | 4.5 | 4.2 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 |

| | Pierce | | | Polk | | | St. Croix | | | Eau Claire MSA | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|----------------|---------|---------|
| | Jun '04 | May '04 | Jun '03 | Jun '04 | May '04 | Jun '03 | Jun '04 | May '04 | Jun '03 | Jun '04 | May '04 | Jun '03 |
| Total Nonfarm | 10.9 | 10.8 | 10.1 | 14.7 | 14.5 | 15.0 | 27.8 | 27.3 | 27.5 | 78.6 | 79.4 | 77.4 |
| Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 3.9 | 3.7 | 3.6 |
| Manufacturing | 1.1 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 5.5 | 11.4 | 11.2 | 11.1 |
| Trade | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 12.6 | 13.0 | 12.4 |
| Transportation & Utilities | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.9 |
| Financial Activities | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.7 |
| Education & Health Services | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 12.6 | 12.7 | 12.4 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 3.6 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 8.1 | 7.8 | 7.8 |
| Information/Prof. & Bus.Serv. | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 8.3 | 8.1 | 8.1 |
| Other Services | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.8 |
| Total Government | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.3 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.8 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 11.3 | 12.6 | 11.6 |

Current month preliminary. Estimates based on March 2003 benchmark. Summing from unrounded numbers.

every county in the region but not in Eau Claire County. There were 1,029 claims filed in mid-June by Eau Claire County residents, up from 932 in mid-May, but the number of claimants is down from 1,380 one year ago. Region-wide in mid-June 3,932 residents filed a claim for unemployment benefits compared with 4,075 in mid-May and 5,214 in June 2003.

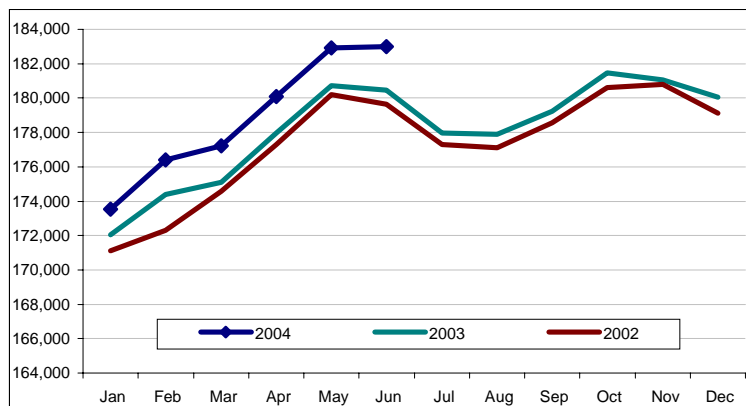
The number of unemployment claims in both the region and county increases from mid-June to mid-July. Much of the bump in claims follows a seasonal pattern as workers with local school systems are laid off for the summer. In spite of the up-tick in claims during the month the count remains lower in July than in either of the last two years.

One reason that unemployment claims are steadily declining is that the number of jobs in the area continues to increase. In June, there

were 183,000 jobs with West Central Wisconsin employers. Employers in the rural counties added 840 jobs in June for a total of 104,400 jobs while employers in the metropolitan

area provided 78,600 jobs following a reduction of 800 jobs in June. The metro area reductions occurred with trade (400 jobs) and state and local government (1,300 jobs) employers. Government jobs decline when schools lay off maintenance, food service and other support workers during summer break; trade job decline when student workers leave the area for the

Total Nonfarm Employment in West Central Wisconsin



summer. Employers adding jobs in June include those in construction, manufacturing, transportation, leisure and hospitality, and business services.

Manufacturers throughout the region added 450 jobs in June. Manufacturing employment is just shy of the level of one year ago although the number of production jobs is still lower than in 2002.

Find the most current Labor Market Information at: WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI

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